

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Claim 10 is further amended as below:

A holder for maintaining substrates in an array in a programmable matrix in which the substrates in a batch are subjected to a high throughput combinatorial materials deposition process comprising:

a block assembly formed from a face plate, middle block and a removable rear retainer plate attached in parallel in a serial sequence and aligned with each other along a common center axis,

a plurality of cylindrical chambers arranged in an array within the block assembly, the chambers formed within and extending perpendicularly through the face plate and the middle block, wherein the front facing section of the chamber formed within the face plate includes a circular cut out with a predetermined diameter and the section of the chamber formed within the block assembly has a diameter greater than the diameter of the cut out in the face plate,

a plurality of removable cylindrical electrodes aligned in a plane and maintained in columns in the middle plate, each electrode maintained separately in a chamber and having a diameter less than the diameter of the chamber, the front end of each electrode facing the face plate and adapted to receive thereupon a deposition of material, the rear end of each electrode facing the retainer plate,

for each electrode, a spring in the chamber extending from the rear end of the electrode to the front facing interior side of the retainer plate, the spring forcibly maintaining the front end of each electrode against the cut out section of the face plate, the spring maintained within a cylindrical retainer capsule having a top surface facing the rear end of the electrode and an open bottom end from which the spring protrudes, wherein the retainer capsule for the spring includes a flange at the rear facing end thereof, the flange adapted to prevent upward movement of the retainer capsule for the spring in the chamber beyond the ring intrinsically extending inward in the interior of the chamber,

a ring intrinsically extending inward in a section of the chamber in the block assembly, the ring longitudinally separating the chamber between a front facing electrode holding section and a rear facing spring holding section,

the holder being mountable on a programmable x-y table in a PVD chamber and being movable with respect to a plasma gun array such that each electrode receives a deposition of material thereupon during the processing of the electrodes in accordance with a programmed combinatorial material sequence, the electrodes being removable from the assembly after the completion of processing

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Edwin M. Baranowski on 6/4/2009.

Claims 3-6, 9, 12-15 are allowed.

Drawings

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: The columnar structure maintaining substrate electrode 46 should be identified by a number.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N. Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571 272 1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ram N Kackar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792